

# YOUNG ADULT

SUNDAY SCHOOL    SPRING QUARTER, 2017    MARCH, APRIL, MAY

# JUDE    THE BATTLE FOR THE MINDS, BODIES AND SOULS OF MEN

QUARTERLY AIM: Understanding the spiritual battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men.

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# THE BATTLE FOR THE MINDS, BODIES AND SOULS OF MEN

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**Lesson Text:** Jude 9

**Principle:** Throughout the ages there has been and there remains a battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men.

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“There is no neutral ground in the universe:  
every square inch, every split second, is  
claimed by God and counter-claimed by Satan.”  
—C. S. Lewis

Nature gives man wheat, but man must grind the wheat. God gives man a will, but man must make the right choices. There is, and always has been, a battle going on concerning the choices humankind makes in life.

Jude, a very short letter written by the half brother of Jesus in AD 66 (Matthew 13:55; Mark 6:3), goes into great detail about the battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men. The battle is cosmic, or immense, because God’s will for the ages is universal. It is comprehensive, intense and includes the universe, that is, everything God has created.

The battle is real, even deadly, because Satan desires to be God. Therefore, Satan sticks his evil nose into every aspect of human life and death. For example, in Jude 9, Satan argued with Michael the archangel over the body of Moses. Interestingly, Michael took no action. He left the disposition of Moses’ body to God which probably aggravated Satan immensely.

Jude may be a short book, but it is weighty and addresses important issues children of God face every day. It is my prayer that you this the study educational, interesting and helpful as you serve God in an increasingly hostile world.

## EXPLORING THE PRINCIPLE



### THINK ABOUT IT!

There are three angels who reign supreme. They are called archangels.

Michael is the first archangel (Jude 9). In the book of Daniel, Michael is called “one of the chief princes” (Daniel 10:13) and “the great prince” who stands for the nation of Israel (Daniel 12:1).

Gabriel was sent by God to Zacharias to announce the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:11-19) and to Mary to announce the birth of Jesus (Luke 1:25-31). Gabriel was also sent to Daniel to explain his visions (Daniel 8:16; 9:21).

Lucifer (Light-bearer), “son of the morning” (Isaiah 14:12), rebelled against God and brought sin into the universe (Isaiah 14:12-17). Lucifer guarded the throne of God until “iniquity was found” in him (Ezekiel 28:12-17).

The battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men is closely tied to the angels, and humans are caught in the crosshairs.

### The Creation of Man

The human race was not an afterthought to God. God created the earth with humans in mind. It is not coincidental that in the vastness of the universe the earth is located so precisely that it is the only place that supports human life. It is also not surprising that on the sixth day of creation when the earth was fully habitable, God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:26).

Sometimes, it is easy to overlook the obvious. For example, when God created man, He declared that man would “have dominion over” all animal life and “over all the earth” (verse 26). We cannot ignore the word “dominion” which means to rule over or to reign over. Man, therefore, by direct order from God, was to rule over all the earth. Simple, huh? straightforward? no problem, right?

Before God created man and the earth, He created the angels. When God approached Job in a whirlwind, He asked, “Where wast thou [a man] when I laid the foundations of the earth?” (Job 38:4). God then asked, “Who laid the corner stone thereof; when the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?” (verses 6, 7). The “morning stars” and the “sons of God” who sang and shouted for joy were angels.

The angels were present when God said, “Let there be light” (Genesis 1:3). The angels were present when God said, “Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters”

(verse 6). The angels were present when God said, “Let the earth bring forth

grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth” (verse 11). The angels were present when God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the night” (verse 14). The angels were present when God said, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly” (verse 20). The angels were present when God said, “Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind” (verse 24). The angels were present when God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...over all the earth” (verse 26).

Angels were and are glorious, powerful beings. They sang and shouted for joy when God created the earth. I wonder how the angels felt when God said that He was going to create man in His image, and that he—man—would have dominion and rule over all the earth?

Let’s take this a step further. How do you think the angels felt when God said, “Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee” (Hebrews 1:5). How do you think the angels—glorious, powerful beings—felt when God said, “Let all the angels of God worship him”? (verse 6).

The Hebrew writer is talking about the Son of God, and Jesus is the Son of God. This is true, but don’t overlook the fact that Adam was the “son of God,” too (Luke 3:38) and that Jesus is the last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45-47).

Ruling the earth did not include the angels. This is an important point. It was and is God’s will that man, not angels, rule the earth.

### The Angels’ Reaction

How did the angels react to God saying, “Let all the angels of God worship him”? (Hebrews 1:6). Two-thirds of the angels accepted God’s declaration that Jesus was to be worshiped. One-third of the angels did not accept God’s declaration. In fact, one very powerful and beautiful angel—Lucifer, the son of the morning star, the angel anointed to cover and guard the throne of God, whose heart was lifted up because of his beauty (Ezekiel 28:12-17), thought he should be the ruler of all of God’s creation. Son of God or not, there was no way that he would bow down, worship and serve the only begotten Son of God.

Angry and vengeful, Lucifer said in his heart, “I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne



#### THINK ABOUT IT!

From the beginning, angels have always been interested in God’s grace towards humans (1 Peter 1:12).

Churches present God’s hidden mystery to angels every Sunday (Ephesians 3:10).

The death, burial and resurrection of Jesus openly displayed the triumph of Jesus over the angels who rejected

God's plan and will for the universe (Colossians 2:15).

Lucifer (Satan) hates humans and works every day to destroy the lives of men, women and children.

above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isaiah 14:13, 14). Lucifer, the son of the morning, the most powerful and most beautiful of all angels, rebelled and attacked the throne of God, fully intending to take God's place. No longer a beautiful

angel, but like a great red dragon, Lucifer's "tail drew the third part of the stars in heaven" that is, a third of the angels rebelled with Lucifer (Revelation 12:3, 4).

When did the angelic rebellion take place? No one is certain. Some believe, however, that after God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion" (Genesis 1:26), and when God said, "Let all the angels of God worship him" (Hebrews 1:6), Lucifer rebelled, and later appeared as a serpent in the Garden of Eden.



Satan hasn't changed his tactics.

The method Satan used on Adam and Eve is the method he uses today.

Satan uses worldly things to catch our eyes and lull us into his traps, just as he did six thousand years ago.

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:16).

Has it changed in six thousand years?

### **The Result: A Battle for the Minds, Bodies and Souls of Men**

God created Adam. Adam was "the son of God" (Luke 3:38). Lucifer, unwilling to accept God's will for the earth and man, rebelled against God and His will. The first clash occurred in the Garden of Eden. Lucifer, now the devil, approached the woman and asked, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1). The woman replied, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die" (verses 2, 3). The serpent said, "Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods [literally, like God], knowing good and evil" (verses 4, 5).

The temptation was not about how good the forbidden fruit looked or tasted. The temptation was about being like God, the same hook that got Satan in trouble when he rebelled (Isaiah 14:14). Satan thought he should be God. He still does,

and from Adam to the present he has fought to destroy the minds, bodies and souls of men.

Satan is interested in the minds of men. Satan knows the mind is the battleground and that if he controls the mind, he controls the man (2 Corinthians 11:3). Satan, therefore, fights every day to control the minds of humankind.

Satan is interested in the bodies of men. Jude wrote that “Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses” (Jude 9). In other words, Michael and Satan argued. Satan wanted to retain the body of Moses, pointing out that he is interested in the bodies of men.

Satan is interested in the souls of men. There are two cities of great significance in the Bible. The city of God is Jerusalem. Jerusalem means peace. The city of Satan is Babylon. Babylon means confusion. Babylon speaks of anything that is against God. Before Jesus returns in glory, Babylon will be the commercial center of the earth. An angel of the Lord comes down from Heaven and shouts, “Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen” (Revelation 18:2). Merchants weep and mourn because when Babylon falls no one will buy and sell their merchandise. The merchandise Satan pushes is gold, silver, precious stones, pearls, fine linen, silk, fine wood, ivory, brass, iron, marble, cinnamon, perfumes, ointments, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, livestock, chariots, slaves, and “souls of men” (Revelation 18:12, 13).

Satan hates the human race. Furthermore, in a sense, Satan fears the human race because it is God’s will for the human race to rule the earth. To prevent this from happening, Satan fights—continually, relentlessly and persistently—for the minds, bodies and souls of men.

Absolutely not!

Satan knows he has a game plan that works, so why should he change it?

Lust and pride were his downfall, and he uses lust and pride to keep humankind from obeying the will of God.

Consider the merchandise that will keep Babylon in business.

## GRASPING THE PRINCIPLE

There is a huge difference between love and hate. Love works for our good. Hate works for our destruction. God loves the human race. Satan hates the human race. God is interested in our lives, and God is involved in our lives because God loves us. Satan is interested in our lives, and Satan is involved in our lives because Satan hates us. God works through love to save our lives. Satan works through hate to destroy our lives.

In the battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men, we have choices. Do we want to serve God, who loves us and works for our good or do we want

to serve Satan, who hates us and works for our destruction? This is our decision, and we live and die with the choices we make.

It is hard to guide a man if the man hasn't made up his mind which way he wants to go. In the battle for the minds, bodies and souls of men, we decide whom we will follow: God or Satan? We cannot go anywhere if we straddle the fence.

Satan, no doubt, wants to destroy our minds, bodies and souls with merchandise like precious stones, pearls, fine clothing, expensive homes, fine food, glittering jewelry and fancy cars (Revelation 18:12, 13). Satan doesn't use materialism because he likes us. Satan uses materialism to hook us because he is after our souls.

Do not allow Satan to destroy your life with things that are here today and gone tomorrow. Don't be foolish with your life. Don't accept Babylon's merchandise as payment for your soul.

Jesus asked, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36). The answer is, there is no profit in gaining the world by selling your soul to Satan.

## DISCUSSING THE PRINCIPLE

1. God created the human race to rule the earth (Genesis 1:26). How do you think we are living up to this responsibility?
2. Lucifer and one-third of the angels (Revelation 12:3, 4) refused to accept God's will for the human race to dominate the earth. Read Ezekiel 28:11-19. Do you think Satan's original power and glory played a part in his rebellion? List reasons.
3. Satan is extremely interested in the minds, bodies and souls of men. Read Revelation 18:12, 13, and discuss what Satan uses to win the minds, bodies and souls of men and women.
4. God involves Himself in our lives because He loves us. Satan involves himself in our lives because he hates us. Discuss the difference.

## LIVING THE PRINCIPLE

This week I will read Jude 9 daily. I will accept the fact that there is a battle going on for the minds, bodies and souls of men. I will acknowledge Satan's motives and hatred for the human race, and I will serve God. God works for my good (Romans 8:28) and loves me.